

# NEIGHBORHOOD News



FROM SUPERVISOR KAUFFMAN

Dear Neighbor:

As your representative, I work to preserve, and where possible, improve the quality of life that brought us to our community. In this issue of Neighborhood News, I would like to share with you a variety of events and projects taking place in our community. I hope you'll come to our Lee District town meeting for more information about these and other happenings.

Transportation and development continue to top the list of concerns for much of our District. Accordingly, I've invited State and local transportation experts and our planning director to give us updates at the town meeting. County staff will also discuss the recent "infill" study (on development in existing neighborhoods) and draft recommendations for change. Supervisor Mendelsohn and I created this initiative to encourage greater tree preservation and make development more compatible with existing neighborhoods. As you know, our powers to regulate development are limited by the State so our major challenge remains to make Richmond understand that Fairfax County needs more flexibility to manage growth.

Similarly, educating our children requires significant investment and foresight. I am proud to say that I have ensured that the County Board continues to dedicate the largest portion of our budget to neighborhood schools. However, education doesn't stop with high school. We recently broke ground on a medical education campus near the Franconia/Springfield Metro. In addition to this Springfield campus, Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) has responded to our requests and agreed to offer information technology classes on Route One.

Communities are more than bricks and mortar. Our first annual bike ride, the "Tour de Lee," takes place this fall. Next summer you'll be able to take your family to a free concert series at the Lee District Park amphitheater (also made possible with a mix of public/private financing). Additionally, we've acquired land and improved existing neighborhood parks, thanks to Park Authority bond money approved by voters in 1998.

If you would like more information on any of these programs, please write, e-mail, or call my office. We've recently extended our weekday office hours to 6 p.m. to be conveniently available to respond to your needs.

I hope to see you on October 21 at our Lee District town meeting.

Sincerely,

Dana Kauffman  
Your Lee District Supervisor

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## DEVELOPMENT STUDY AIMS TO CONTROL GROWTH

For some, Fairfax County is synonymous with high tech and comfortable bank accounts. What is important to me is keeping Lee District a good place to raise families, work, and play. For that to happen, we need more tools at the County level than I currently have to protect the integrity of our neighborhoods and preserve trees!

Much to my dismay, the State has yet to grant us the fundamental ability to realistically plan and phase-in land that is already zoned for development. We must have this tool to reduce the immediate impact of development on our schools, roads, and parks. Without it, we fight an uphill battle to preserve what brought us to Fairfax County in the first place.

Fed up with waiting for the State to give us enabling legislation, last year I invited Supervisor Mendelsohn to join me in a bi-partisan initiative for greater control of infill development. (That is, new homes built in established neighborhoods.)

We are looking at ways to change our zoning ordinance (while preserving peoples' land rights). The changes to be debated before the Board of Supervisors will include:

- Greater tree-save areas and buffers.
- Better traffic management tools, especially to address neighborhood cut-through traffic and increased traffic volumes.
- Innovative drainage techniques for better erosion control, particularly where there are marine clays and problem soils.

County staff is working with us to schedule community meetings and the Planning Commission is sponsoring a workshop to review these issues. Currently, the Planning Commission is scheduled to forward recommendations to the Board of Supervisors this December.

## REAL ESTATE TAX RELIEF

As the result of a Board Matter I brought up in January, it just got easier for seniors and the disabled to live in Fairfax County. Starting this tax season, seniors with an annual income of up to \$35,000 may qualify for 100% relief. There is a sliding scale for partial relief. Obtain applications at my office, or by calling 703-222-8234, or on-line at [www.co.fairfax.va.us/dta/forms.htm](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dta/forms.htm).

## KINGSTOWNE STREAM RESTORED

This past June marked the successful completion of the Kingstowne Stream Restoration Project. The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the United States Department of Agriculture, and citizen groups have worked with the County to design and implement a solution to the severe erosion of the Kingstowne stream. The new design re-shapes the stream and incorporates native plant material to stabilize the stream slopes. This approach will be the model for future stream protection and restoration in Fairfax County.



***Supervisor Kauffman, and son Ethan with environmental defender Norma Hoffman at the Kingstowne Stream Restoration site***

## FROM THE MIXING BOWL TO TRAFFIC CALMING

The Virginia Department of Transportation still expects to complete the "Mixing Bowl" project by Spring 2007. To see updated ramp closures and other information visit the web site at [www.springfieldinterchange.com](http://www.springfieldinterchange.com), call 1-877-9595-222, or go to the information center at Springfield Mall.

I have been working with our communities to help seek solutions to combat increased cut-through traffic, truck traffic and speeding on our neighborhood streets. This spring we completed a "traffic calming" project on Westchester Street consisting of one speed hump and one multi-way stop.

## **SOUTH VAN DORN STREET EXTENDED**

We are on track to start construction in 2001. The constant challenge has been to balance the wetland's environmental sensitivity with the great need for this connection to Telegraph Road. Prior to road construction, Fairfax County will build significant off-site stormwater management improvements and add over 100 acres to Huntley Meadows Park in order to meet Army Corps of Engineer requirements. Through a series of budget votes, I have secured over \$5 million in County funds to make this project happen.

## **TELEGRAPH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will be widening our stretch of Telegraph in four different construction phases:

- The section from **Route One to Beulah Street** is already under construction and should be complete by November 2001.
- Widening from **Beulah Street to Hayfield Road** is funded and online for 2003.
- Widening from **Hayfield to South Kings Highway** is funded in the State plan for 2005.
- Widening from **South Kings Highway to Franconia** is in the State long-term plan but not funded until 2007.

## **BEULAH STREET**

VDOT will rebuild Beulah into a four lane divided roadway from the Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Franconia Road. The project is completely funded, with utilities relocation already underway. VDOT has completed its right of way acquisition and plans to begin construction in 2001. We've added bicycle lanes and I have ensured that the Fleet Drive intersection will be re-aligned and a traffic signal installed.

## **NEIGHBORHOODS PETITION TO RESTRICT BOAT PARKING**

Fairfax County neighborhoods finally have a tool to address the safety hazards associated with oversize vehicles parking on state roads. In August 2000, the Board of Supervisors voted to allow communities to petition to prohibit watercraft, boat trailer, motor home, and camping trailer parking in specifically designated residential districts. Please contact my office to learn more about how your neighborhood may participate in this program.



***Supervisor Kauffman and the Franconia police bike patrol team train for the "Tour de Lee"***

## **FRANCONIA-KINGSTOWNE NEWS**

We've broken ground on a Northern Virginia Community College medical education campus and an Inova Franconia-Springfield hospital. This June, we opened the Kingstowne library with a collection of over 55,000 books and a computer center.

We've also staged the first annual Senior Fair at Springfield Mall, planned our first annual bike race, the "Tour de Lee," and are working on restoring the former Black schoolhouse on Beulah to create a museum. We're also about to expand available parking and train service at the Franconia-Springfield Metro station.

## **PARK PROJECT NEWS**

The Park Authority plans to begin improvements to the soccer fields at Manchester Lakes Park by July 2001. Staff is also looking into the feasibility of adding an off-leash dog run, similar to the new facility in Oakton. To learn more, or to comment on the proposed improvements, contact the Park Authority's Planning and Development Division at (703) 324-8741.

Soccer fans can also look for three new fields at Island Creek next year. At Clermont Park, we're adding two girl's softball fields and two baseball fields including another 90-foot diamond.

If you prefer music to sports, you can look forward to a new summer concert series at the Lee District Park amphitheater. We will need a "Friends" group to plan and fundraise for performances. Please contact my office for more information about volunteering.

## Our Office Staff



*(left to right) Joan Clark, Christine Tollefson, Jeff McKay, Linda Waller and Debbi Wilson*

**Jeff McKay:** Chief of staff and handles policy issues, land use, Route One Revitalization and other key matters.

**Linda Waller:** Economic and business development, Springfield Revitalization, community issues, and newsletter contact.

**Christine Tollefson:** Human services, zoning, public works, parks, and tax issues.

**Joan Clark:** (part time) Transportation (including Metro) and school issues.

**Debbi Wilson:** Office Manager, systems administrator, my calendar, contact for use of the "Helen Wilson Community Room."

## HOW TO REACH US:

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*Be sure to check out the on-line version of Neighborhood News and look for new messages from Supervisor Kauffman throughout the year!*

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## OFFICE HOURS:

**8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday**

## TOWN MEETING !

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st  
HAYFIELD SECONDARY  
SCHOOL  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Use TAGS Springfield local bus service this holiday season! Call (703) 971-7727 for schedule information.